

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Davis: Utah plan means ‘key pieces’ in place for D.C. Vote

Bill now could pass before 109th Congress adjourns

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.) said today that Utah’s approval of a redistricting plan to include a fourth congressional seat means “all the key pieces are in place” for passage of the D.C. voting rights legislation he introduced in 2005.

Under Davis’ legislation, the District of Columbia would receive a vote in the House of Representatives for the first time in nearly 200 years. Utah, next in line to add a seat after the 2000 census, also would receive an additional seat. Utah had to approve a plan for four single-member districts before House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., would agree to move the bill.

On Monday, both houses of Utah’s legislature approved such a plan by overwhelming margins, and the governor was expected to sign the measure later that night.

Sensenbrenner, in turn, has promised to move the bill straight to the floor after Utah acted. If this happens, the bill could pass the House this week and head for the Senate.

“There’s nothing standing in the way now,” said Davis, whose Government Reform Committee already has approved the measure. “It’s time justice is done, and the District of Columbia gets a vote in Congress. Nobody has gotten this far before. I call on Congress and the White House to finish the job while we have the momentum going. Let’s not wait for the 110th. Let’s do this now.”

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